

Alexander bucks trend to spend

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U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, is co-sponsoring a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that would call for halting an automatic pay raise for members of Congress.

Congress members received a 2.8 percent pay increase this month. The jump brings the average salary for members to \$174,000 a year. Government watchdog groups have decried the raise, pointing to the lean economic times. Alexander agrees.

“Desperate economic

times may call for desperate measures,” Alexander said in a statement. “An automatic pay increase for members of Congress should not be on the table.”

U.S. lawmakers receive an automatic pay increase each year because of a measure approved by Congress in 1989.

Since then, Congress has voted to forgo the increases six times, most recently in 2007.

“At a time when residents of Louisiana are sacrificing to make ends meet, I do not believe it is suitable for Congress to accept a pay raise,” Alexander said.